

As an American citizen and an educated, experienced journalist, I'm aghast that Sinclair Broadcasting has announced plans to misuse its privileges on public airwaves and to violate the public trust by broadcasting overtly partisan, timed political material. The Federal Communications Commission is obliged to take pre-emptive action to prevent this violation and abuse from occurring!

Someone else - who knows the issue quite well - put it better: "This is an abuse of the public trust. And it is proof positive of media consolidation run amok when one owner can use the public airwaves to blanket the country with its political ideology -- whether liberal or conservative. Some will undoubtedly question if this is appropriate stewardship of the public airwaves. This is the same corporation that refused to air Nightline's reading of our war dead in Iraq. It is the same corporation that short-shrifts local communities and local jobs by distance-casting news and weather from hundreds of miles away. It is a sad fact that the explicit public interest protections we once had to ensure balance continue to be weakened by the Federal Communications Commission while it allows media conglomerates to get even bigger. Sinclair, and the FCC, are taking us down a dangerous road."